REMARKS

The claims are revised in view of the new ground of rejection. Claims 1-3, 5-12, and 14-27 remain pending, with no claim previously allowed.

All remaining claims are rejected as anticipated by Star Office 5.1 as disclosed in the IDS submitted February 10, 2005, hereinafter *"Staroffice"*. The Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Independent Claim 1

Claim 1 as amended now identifies the personal information as produced by a document-generating application and including a comment box visible with a display of the document. Activating the privacy option enables removal of one or more pieces of personal information displayed in the comment box without deleting the document. The method defined by Claim 1 also comprises replacing that personal information displayed in the comment box with generic information. (The "comment box" feature is discussed in the specification at page 16, lines 10-13 and page 18, lines 15-26, with respect to Figures 5 and 6 of the drawings.)

Staroffice fails to anticipate a method for removing personal information including the above-mentioned steps now in Claim 1. First of all, that reference does not disclose a comment box as disclosed and claimed herein. Namely, the Properties dialog box (Screenshots 1-3) is displayed in response to selecting a "Properties" sub-menu under the "File" menu, so that the Properties box —unlike the comment box of Claim 1— is not visible with a display of the document. Thus, in *Staroffice* the "personal information" (the author's name "Jack Beanstalk") appears only in the Properties dialog box, not with a

display of the document itself. Accordingly, *Staroffice* fails to disclose a comment box visible with a display of the document and also fails to disclose a privacy option that enables removal of personal information displayed in the comment box. For that reason, Claim 1 defines a novel method over *Staroffice*.

Likewise, the claims depending from Claim 1 are novel over *Staroffice*.

Dependent Claim 27

Claim 27 further defines the method of Claim 1 as generating the comment box to contain a comment added to the document by a user of the program, and also containing personal information about that user. According to Claim 27, activating the privacy option enables removal of the personal information from the comment box without removing the comments displayed with the document in the comment box.

Staroffice, in addition to not anticipating the parent claim for reasons discussed above, also fails to anticipate the further limitations of Claim 27. The Properties dialog box of *Staroffice* does not contain a comment added to a first electronic document by a user of the program. Screenshot No. 1 of *Staroffice* displays only document information generated by the document program itself and relating to creation/modification of the document. Thus, Properties dialog box discloses the Type, Location, and Size of the particular document, along with the dates and names of the persons creating and modifying that document. Accordingly, that reference does not anticipate generating a comment box containing a comment added to the document by a user of the program, in addition to personal information about the user adding that comment. It thus follows that *Staroffice* fails to anticipate a privacy option that enables removing the personal

information from the comment box without removing the user-added comment displayed with that personal information in the comment box. Accordingly, Claim 27 is not anticipated by *Staroffice*.

Independent Claim 11

Claim 11 now defines a method for removing personal information from an electronic document having a visible comment box displaying the personal information. The claimed method includes activating a privacy option resulting in removal of the personal information from the comment box displayed with the document without deleting the document. Furthermore, removing the personal information from the comment box comprises replacing that personal information with generic information for display in the comment box.

As discussed above, *Staroffice* fails to anticipate a method including those elements of Claim 11. *Staroffice* does not disclose a document having a visible comment box displaying personal information, and the reference likewise fails to disclose removing personal information from that (nonexistent) comment box, or replacing that removed personal information with generic information for display in the (nonexistent) comment box. Accordingly, Claim 11 and the claims depending thereon are novel over *Staroffice*.

Claims 17 and 18 are novel over *Staroffice* for the reasons discussed above with regard to Claim 11.

Independent Claim 19

Claim 19 defines a computer readable medium having stored instructions for removing personal information from a <u>visible comment box displayed with an electronic document</u>. The method of removal comprises a privacy option that enables removal of personal information from the <u>comment box displayed with the</u> document without deleting that document, and replacing the personal information with generic information <u>displayed in the comment box</u>. As pointed out above, *Staroffice* fails to disclose a method functioning as required by Claim 19. Accordingly, that claim and dependent Claim 20 define novel subject matter over *Staroffice*.

Claim 21

Claim 21 defines a method for removing personal information from an electronic document having both a <u>memory representation</u> visible to a user when the document is displayed from the document-generating application, and a <u>file representation</u> saved to computer-readable media. (The "memory representation" and "file representation" of the document are discussed at page 11, lines 15-27 and page 12, lines 23-26 of the specification.) The claimed method comprises removing personal information from <u>the memory representation and from the file representation</u> of the document, or replacing personal information <u>from the memory representation and from the file representation</u> with generic information, without deleting the document. Thus, activating the privacy option removes (or replaces) personal information from the memory representation (e.g., an on-screen visible display) <u>and</u> from the file representation of the document (e.g., the document saved to disk of the computer system). Activating the method of Claim 21 thus

removes (or replaces) the personal information without recourse to restoring that information from the file representation of the document.

The method of Claim 21 is further contrasted with *Staroffice*. In that reference, a user may deselect the "Apply User Data" checkbox in Screen Shot No. 1 and then save the document. Thereafter, Properties dialog box shown in Screen Shot No. 2 indeed does not display the author's name. However, re-selecting the "Apply User Data" checkbox shown in Screen Shot No. 2, and again selecting "OK" and saving the document, *restores* the author's name to the Properties dialog box as shown in Screen Shot No. 3 of *Staroffice*. It is apparent that deselecting the "Apply User Data" checkbox in *Staroffice* merely removes the author's name from the memory representation visible to a user, but does not remove that personal information from the file representation of that document. Were it otherwise, saving the document after deselecting the checkbox, and then re-checking that checkbox, would not restore the author's name as *Staroffice* discloses.
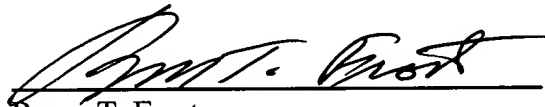
Accordingly, Claim 21 and the claims depending thereon are novel over *Staroffice*.

The foregoing is submitted as a complete response to the Office Action identified above. The Applicants respectfully submit that all claims presently in this application are patentable over the art of record and request a notice to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

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